



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

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# News Release

## **ICE REMOVES 124 CRIMINAL ALIENS, STATUS VIOLATORS FROM 5-STATE AREA DURING FEBRUARY**

NEW ORLEANS—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers here announced today the removal of 17 criminal aliens and 107 non-criminal aliens during February.

Those deported were lawfully ordered to leave the United States by a federal immigration judge. Criminal aliens are non-citizens who have committed felonies or other crimes that make them ineligible to remain in the United States in accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act. Status violators have no legal status to be in the United States under the act, but have not committed crimes.

The countries of origin of those deported include: Mexico, Honduras, Haiti, Guatemala, India and Pakistan.

The offenses of the criminal aliens removed include: criminal sexual abuse, theft, fraud, robbery, rape, indecent exposure, burglary, aggravated assault, larceny, alien smuggling, manslaughter, attempted murder, kidnapping, assault and battery, and more.

This local enforcement operation is part of a 10-year strategic national initiative focused on locating, apprehending and removing the more than 400,000 absconders and 80,000 fugitive criminal aliens with outstanding final orders of removal that are hiding in the United States.

“We are committed to restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system,” said ICE Field Office Director Craig Robinson. “Our Detention and Removal Operations office helps protect the public by taking criminals and lawbreakers off the streets and deporting them to their countries of citizenship.”

Robinson’s area of responsibility for the ICE New Orleans Detention and Removal Operations office includes: Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee.

A primary goal of ICE's Detention and Removal program is to reduce the number of alien absconders who are hiding in the United States. Absconders are foreign nationals who have been ordered removed by a federal immigration judge, but failed to comply with those orders. Since absconders have already been through immigration proceedings, they are subject to immediate removal from the country.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*